

## **Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)**

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Eiteljorg Museum

500 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

### **Voting Members Present**

Shannon Turner, Erin Oliver, Kenneth Eagle, Tracy Locke, John Boyd, Dave Liebel, Cameron F. Clark, Brittany Sanders, and Brenda Summers

### **Voting Members Not Present**

John P. Warren, Peter Magnant, Nathan Underwood, Sarah Ancel, Joe Moser, Greg Bedan

### **Non-voting Members Not Present**

Senator Randy Head

Representative Dan Leonard

### **Staff Present**

Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Commissioner John Boyd. Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in nine voting members and no non-voting member being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, the meeting established a quorum.

### **Invocation**

By the request of Executive Director Steiner, Commissioner Eagle provided the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Review Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for the May 20, 2015, commission meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. No amendments were presented. Commissioner Brenda Summers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cameron Clark. All commissioners were in favor of approving the meeting minutes.

### **License Plate**

Executive Director Steiner reported that the current account balance of \$358,200 is being held within the BMV's Public Trust. She reported that the balance would transfer to INAIAC's commission in June 2016. Executive Director Steiner also reported that the plate renewal was approved and will be good for 10 years.

### **Website Feedback Form**

Executive Director Steiner reported that the Website Feedback Form has been completed. She also requested for those submitting the feedback to identify their county of residence in order to track feedback.

### **Heritage Month Event**

Executive Director Steiner reported that the November event was scheduled for November 13, 2015 at the Indiana State Museum, and the agenda is fairly concrete. She reported that over 550 students had registered for the event, and that the event would be capped at 1,000 students. Plans included 20 educational table displays, drumming, and dancing. The Department of Education has offered video coverage at no cost. Executive Director Steiner reported there was no rent being charged for Friday, and Saturday's rental rate was only being charged at 50%. She reported that there was an added charge for security and food costs. She reported that the current budget for event was set at \$8,000.00.

A treasure hunt list was being provided to all participants to help guide them through the informational available to students. She reported that Friday's event would occur from 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M., and dancers would be performing on the hour every hour. She reported that Saturday's event would occur from 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. and will continue at the Eiteljorg until 4:00 P.M.

Executive Director Steiner reported that the presentation honoring LeRoy Malaterre for his long standing support of the state's Native American community would occur on Saturday. She reported that the status of the Sagamore Award was currently unknown, but she had placed a link on the INAIAC Facebook page to contact Governor Pence's office. She encouraged everyone who would like to see the award given to Mr. Malaterre to contact the Governor's office with support.

### **INAIAC Scholarships**

Executive Director Steiner presented a draft of the MOU with the American Indian Center of Indiana regarding the management of the Commission's newly developed scholarship. Two changes were highlighted on the draft MOU. First, there will be no compensation for administering the scholarships. Second, 4.d Deliverables were expanded to include language stating all application will be returned to the scholarship selection committee rather than only those that were approved by the third party administrator.

Commissioner Clark raised concerns with the use of the word contract. He stated that language used implied there maybe another document. He suggested confirming the language with the legal department. Commissioner Liebel also raised the need for most MOUs to go through an inter-agency process. Commissioner Clark agreed that it might be a requirement due to the use of public funds. Executive Director Steiner reported that she would double check the requirements.

Commissioner Clark also suggested that the Deliverable section should change "accept" to "receive". He also asked if an individual could apply mid-year for the following academic year. He stated that his question was prompted by the use of the language "period of performance."

It was also asked if we have a set dollar amount or number of scholarships at this point in the process. Commissioner Liebel asked for clarification for due dates for applicants and wondered if it would be possible to obtain Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) data to work from rather than duplicating information.

Commissioner Clark also requested clarification on the textbook verification form. Other commission members reported that this was a somewhat standard form that students would understand.

Commissioner Liebel raised security concerns regarding the personally identifiable information that the scholarship forms required. Commissioner Clark asked about ICRC's storage of sensitive information. Executive Director Steiner reported that there would be no electronic transmission of private information, and she would check on the logistics of record retention within ICRC.

Commissioner Liebel shared that although he had a number of questions, he believed the scholarship program was a great idea. Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve the scholarship with the suggested changes. Commissioner Locke seconded the motion, and it passed. Executive Director Steiner agreed and reported that it was an exciting time and saw the creation of this scholarship as a major milestone for the commission. She thanked everyone for their continued support.

### **2016 Meeting Dates**

Executive Director Steiner suggested scheduling 2016 meetings. It was determined that due to travel concerns related to winter weather, a phone conference or ability to call in for the February meeting should be considered. It was suggested that a phone conference occur in February with in-person meetings for May, August, and November. Executive Director Steiner reported that she would look into video conferencing options.

### **Public Comment**

Jeremy Turner, member of the public, questioned the eligibility of non-Indiana residents who are members of federally recognized tribes who are historic to Indiana. He stated that tribes that were forcibly removed from the state makes them historical tribes and therefore a part of Indiana. Commissioner Oliver stated that Michigan has extended their tuition waiver program to this population, and it should be something that the Commission and the State of Indiana should consider and discuss in the future.

Mr. Turner also raised concerns with the vagueness of the current eligibility standards for the scholarship program. Specifically he shared concerns that the current language would allow eligibility to members of groups that do not have a legitimate documented connection to historical tribes. He shared concerns that funds will not be used to fund legitimate Indian people. Doug Peconge raised similar concerns.

Mr. Turner also made challenges to the Statute and the current standing of commissioners. He directed his attention specifically at Commissioner Boyd, and stated that unlike the Miami Nation of Indiana, his group could not be linked to a bona fide group of Indian people. Dialogue of the issue ensued between Mr. Turner, Commissioner Boyd, and Ms. Brenda Haffner-Lindley.

### **Adjournment:**

As there was no other business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned by a motion introduced by Commissioner Eagle and seconded by Commissioner Locke.